

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 14606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CB

SUBJECT: SHOULD LONG BORET RETURN TO NEW YORK FOR KHMER DEBATE

1. DURING MY FIRST CALL ON PRIME MINISTER AFTER HIS RETURN FROM THE UNGA ON OCTOBER 30, I INQUIRED ABOUT HIS PLANS FOR RETURNING TO NEW YORK TO BE PRESENT FOR DEBATE ON KHMER ISSUE. I ALSO SAID THAT I WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE HIM BACK IN PHNOM PENH BECAUSE THERE WAS A LOT OF BUSINESS AWAITING HIM AS PRIME MINISTER WHICH NEEDED HIS DECISIONS AND THAT I HOPED HE WOULD REMAIN AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IN PHNOM PENH TO GIVE LEADERSHIP TO THE GOVERNMENT. I REITERATED OFFER TO HELP HIM GET BACK TO NEW YORK WITHIN 72 HOURS IF HIS PRESENCE REQUIRED UNGA FOR KHMER DEBATE.

2. LONG BORET REPLIED HE WAS NOT SURE THAT THERE WAS ANY NEED FOR HIM TO GO BACK TO NEW YORK. HE CLAIMED HE HAD PREPARED THE NECESSARY SPEECHES TO BE DELIVERED BY THE KHMER FOREIGN MINISTER IF GKR RETAINED ITS SEAT AND HE LEFT IT UP TO KHMER DELEGATION IN NEW YORK TO DETERMINE WHETHER HIS PRESENCE WAS REQUIRED FOR THE DEBATE. THIS HE THOUGHT WOULD DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK. IN SHORT, LONG BORET SAID HE IS GOING ON ASSUMPTION THAT HE WILL REMAIN IN CAMBODIA AND CONCENTRATE

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ON DOMESTIC ISSUES. I SAID THAT I WOULD QUERY USUN TO

OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS ON HOW THEY SAW SITUATION AND WHETHER THEY SAW NEED FOR PRIME MINISTER TO RETURN TO UNGA.

3. COMMENT: WHAT ADVICE SHOULD I GIVE LONG BORET ON RETURNING TO NEW YORK? DO WE NOW HAVE MORE PRECISE IDEA ON WHEN KHMER ISSUE WILL BE DEBATED? IN ASSESSING NEED FOR LONG BORET TO RETURN TO NEW YORK, YOU MIGHT KEEP IN MIND THAT ONE OF HIS QUALITIES IS HIS ABILITY TO KEEP KHMER DELEGATION WORKING TOGETHER, THEREBY AVOIDING WHAT COULD BE DAMAGING PUBLICITY. I WOULD ALSO ADD THAT WERE HE PRESENT IN NEW YORK FOR VOTE AND GKR WERE TO RETAIN ITS SEAT, HE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REAP DOMESTIC POLITICAL BENEFIT AS ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF SUCCESSFUL UN STRATEGY. THIS IN TURN WOULD ENHANCE HIS PRESTIGE AND INCREASE HIS STATURE ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE. LONG BORET HAS BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL PRIME MINISTER CAMBODIA HAS HAD IN A LONG TIME, AND HE WORKS VERY WELL WITH US, SO IT WOULD BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO HAVE HIM OBTAIN LARGE MEASURE OF CREDIT FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME IN NEW YORK.
DEAN

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